3. Prototype production, commercialization and Transfer of Technology;

4. Training of growers, researchers, extension and industrial workers;

5. Environmental upgradation in processing industries and workers' safety.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a programme for supporting R & D in Post Harvest Technology in oilseeds, pulses, oilpalm and maize including the popularization and demonstration of the developed post harvest technologies.

(c) During the current year (2004-05),due to erratic monsoon there has been a certain degree of setback to Kharif production. An intensified Rabi campaign 2004-05 has been launched to culminate into successful production and attainment of annual targets. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has formulated a scheme for giving rewards to the States having outstanding performance during the Rabi season 2004-05.

Agri-Clinics

†1598. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the setting up of agri-clinics and following their directions may prove to be beneficial in order to develop the agriculture in the country and minimise the wastage of avoidable loss occurring thereto;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether this project is already in operation in many States of the country;

(d) if so, the States where this project is going on at present; and

(e) the measures proposed by Government to promote it?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The scheme of "Establishment of Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Centres by Agriculture Graduates" was launched on 9th April, 2002. The objective of the scheme is to provide fee based extension and other services to the farming community, while also creating self employment opportunities for agriculture graduates. This is expected to improve farm production and productivity.

The selected agriculture graduates are provided training in agribusiness development for 2 months in over 67 training institutes throughout the country. Handholding support and institutional credit are available to promote these ventures.

(c) Yes sir.

(d) This project is open for implementation in all the States and Union Territories. A total of 5709 agriculture graduates have been trained under the scheme, of which 1220 have set up their agri-clinics/ventures so far.

(e) As under (b).

System for monitoring rain deficiency

1599. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rain deficiency States visited by the Central Teams to assess the situation on cultivated crops;

(b) the details of their observations;

(c) the action taken to assist the affected districts;

(d) whether any system of monitoring for rain-deficiency has been planned; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The rainfall situation during Southwest Monsoon in various States are constantly monitored. This year, 10 States, *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajastha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have